

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

COUNTRY Austria REPORT
 TOPIC Soviet Troops in Apetlon

EVALUATION 25X1
 DATE OF CONTENT 25X1
 DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 30 March 1955
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 REMARKS 25X1
This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. From 0800 to 1600 on 12 February 1955 in the area of the AAA range about 4 kilometers southwest of Apetlon (P 48/X 74), medium AA guns fired at dummy tanks which were towed by jeeps by means of cables about 300 meters long. On 14 February 1955, truck 25X1 with a driver wearing red-bordered black epaulets which was loaded with 3 dummy tanks and came from the direction of the AAA range passed through Apetlon and went toward Illmitz (P 48/X 74) or Wallern (P 48/X 84). A public announcement, dating from 10 February 1955, indicated that the area east of Neusiedler See (lake) was closed for all types of traffic from that date until 4 April 1955. 25X1
2. On 4 February and from 9 to 11 February 1955, motor vehicles which towed AA guns were observed in Apetlon as specified below: 25X1
On 4 February 1955, 10 trucks, four of them 25X1 all with drivers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and each towing a medium AA gun, travelled toward the AAA range. On 9 February 1955, 15 trucks, 25X1 all with drivers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, which presumably included 8 trucks towing one medium AA gun each travelled toward the Meierhof estate. In the night of 9 February 1955, about 30 motor vehicles, most of which towed medium AA guns, travelled from the direction of Illmitz or Wallern and went toward the AAA range. On 11 February, 15 motor vehicles each of which towed a medium AA gun travelled from the same directions toward the AAA range. 25X1
3. On 4 February 1955 and from 9 to 14 February 1955, motor vehicles were observed travelling through Apetlon toward the Meierhof estate or the AAA range as specified below: 25X1
On 4 February 1955, trucks 25X1 with water barrels, all with drivers wearing red-bordered black epaulets; on 9 February 1955, truck 25X1 with water barrels and a driver wearing red-bordered black epaulets; on 10 February 1955, trucks 25X1 with water barrels and truck 25X1 all with drivers wearing red-bordered black epaulets; on 11 February 1955, trucks 25X1 with water barrels, 25X1 with 5 dummy tanks, and 25X1, all with drivers wearing red-bordered black epaulets; on 12 February 1955, trucks 25X1 two last mentioned trucks with water barrels, 25X1 all with drivers wearing red-bordered black epaulets; 25X1

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-2-

on 13 February 1955, trucks [REDACTED] with water barrels, truck [REDACTED] with straw, and trucks [REDACTED] all with drivers wearing red-bordered black epaulets; on 14 February 1955, trucks [REDACTED], all with drivers wearing red-bordered black epaulets.

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4. From 2 to 11 February 1955, the AAA camp southeast of Apetlon was unoccupied.
5. On 11 February 1955, 2 lieutenant colonels wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and another 4 officers also wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia were observed in an Apetlon restaurant. The latter four officers wished to pay in Hungarian currency as they were short of Austrian shillings. Other Soviet officers tried to talk to local residents in the restaurant in broken Hungarian.
6. On 12 February 1955, visitors from Wallern who came to Apetlon said that, during recent days, AAA shipments which came from the direction of Hungary, were directed to Wallern via Pamhagen (P 48/X 84). According to residents of the Meierhof estate, a mess hall and a butcher's shop were established and 2 baker's ovens were under construction in the area of the estate.

[REDACTED] Comment. The present report confirms that, except for short interruptions, continuous use of the Apetlon AAA range was resumed in late January 1955. The troops whose arrival was announced in a previous report have arrived at scheduled times. [REDACTED] It is believed that they are Soviet AAA units which came from Hungary. Also, most of the motor-vehicle numbers which are mentioned in the present report probably belong to Soviet troops who are located in Hungary.

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